

## **ABSTRACT**

A method of operating a frequency hopping spread spectrum, preferably a Bluetooth piconet, comprising a central node and dependent nodes which communicate over a time division duplexed, frequency hopping channel, alternate time-wise frequency/time slots being allocated for central node and dependent node transmission, wherein a first of said dependent nodes is not permitted to transmit in a frequency/time slot which immediately succeeds, time-wise, a frequency/time slot in which the central node transmitted to another of said dependent nodes, comprising the steps of: the central node maintaining a black-list of worse-performing frequency bands in the channel, and transmitting a dummy packet in a frequency/time slot immediately preceding, time-wise, a frequency/time slot allocated for possible dependent node transmission at a frequency band which is black-listed.